

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 12-20 are vague and indefinite with respect to what applicants are intending to instantly claim, since these claims are dependent on cancelled claim 1. Therefore, these claims will not be further addressed in this office action.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claim 11 is allowable over the prior art of record.

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record fails to teach and/or suggest a well cooler having a cooling element which extends into a well space and is cathodically protected to prevent the cooling element from being affected by stray current corrosion. None of the prior art sets forth such a structure. The closest prior art sets forth the use of corrosion protection means such as that of coatings to protect the well structure but does not set forth a cathodic protection means to protect the cooling element.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bruce F. Bell whose telephone number is 571-272-1296. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 6:30 AM - 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571 272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BFB
October 22, 2009

/Bruce F. Bell/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1795